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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 573
By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION To honor Eric Jerome Dickey, bestselling author
and Memphis native.

WHEREAS, The members of this General Assembly are proud to recognize the achievements of those Tennesseans, who, through their inherent abilities and talents, have made an indelible impression upon the culture of our nation; and

WHEREAS, Eric Jerome Dickey, who was born in Memphis and graduated from the University of Memphis, is one such accomplished Tennessean, who has made his mark as a scriptwriter, poet and bestselling author; and

WHEREAS, After earning a Bachelor's Degree in Computer System Technology, Mr. Dickey moved to Los Angeles, where he worked as a software developer in the aerospace industry; he also exercised his artistic talents as an actor and a stand-up comedian, working the local and national comedy circuits; and

WHEREAS, As the aerospace industry went into a decline, Eric found himself "downsized"; he then advanced from writing scripts for his own comedy act to composing poetry and short stories; he joined the International Black Writers and Artists (IBWA), participating in

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their development workshops, and received an IBWA SEED Scholarship to attend creative writing classes at UCLA; and

WHEREAS, In 1994, Mr. Dickey's first published short story, "*Thirteen*" appeared in IBWA's *River Crossing, Voices of the Diaspora - An Anthology of the International Black Experience*; a second short story, "*Days Gone By*," was published in the magazine, *A Place to Enter*, and

WHEREAS, Having tasted literary success, Eric Dickey developed a screenplay called "*Cappuccino*," which Craig Ross Jr. directed and produced in appearances in coffeehouses around the Los Angeles area; in February 1998. "*Cappuccino*" made its local debut at the Magic Johnson Theater in Los Angeles during the Pan African Film Festival and is now being shown on the film festival circuit; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dickey has conducted book-signing tours from coast to coast in support of his novels, *Sister, Sister, Friends and Lovers*, *Milk in My Coffee*, *Cheaters*, and *Liar's Game*, each of which rose to number one on the "Blackboard Bestsellers List"; *Cheaters* was subsequently named "Blackboard Book of the Year"; and

WHEREAS, When *Milk in My Coffee* was published in France as *Café Noisette*, Eric Dickey embarked on a book tour in Paris, and *Milk in My Coffee* became a bestseller in France; his last novel, *Liar's Game*, earned a spot on the *New York Times* bestseller list as well as a NAACP Image Award in the category of Outstanding Fiction; and

WHEREAS, In December 2000, Mr. Dickey was a contributor to New American Library's anthology *Got To Be Real: Four Original Love Stories*, which also became a Blackboard bestseller; his works have consistently occupied positions on regional bestseller lists and have appeared in many publications, including *Essence* and *Ebony* magazines, *USA Today*, *Detroit Free Press*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Los Angeles Times*; and

WHEREAS, The character-driven stories in Eric Dickey's books have caused Dickey fans to clamor for more of his work; his sixth novel, *Between Lovers*, will be published by Dutton in July of this year, and *Liar's Game* became available as a Signet paperback in June 2001; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dickey brings his *Between Lovers* book tour to Memphis on July 13 and 14, with a live interview appearance on the Bev Johnson Show on the 13th, an appearance at the University of Memphis in conjunction with Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. on the 13th and again at the Alumni Center at a Greek Mixer and Signing on the 14th, and book signings at Afrobooks in Southland Mall on the 13th and Barnes and Noble on Winchester on the 14th; and

WHEREAS, The outstanding talent and productivity of Eric Jerome Dickey is a great source of pride for all Tennesseans and is certainly worthy of the approbation and respect of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Eric Jerome Dickey upon his great literary success and his outstanding talent as a scriptwriter, poet and author.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That we offer him our thanks for the pride that we feel for Mr. Dickey's accomplishments as a son of this State and extend to him our best wishes for every success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.